



# Local Priority Weed Management Plan

2026 - 2031

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## Introduction

Local Councils are legislatively required to monitor and manage weeds as identified in the Biosecurity Act 2015. The act aims to protect the environment, economy and community from the impacts of pests, diseases and weeds. Together with the NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety Strategy 2022 – 2030, it creates a clear, shared-responsibility framework for biosecurity and weed management across all land tenures.

Weeds significantly damage natural areas, waterways and landscapes by out-competing native species and altering habitats. Many stakeholders—including councils, government agencies, community groups, volunteers and landowners—contribute to weed control, but long-term progress is challenged by limited resources, competing priorities, coordination difficulties, low community awareness and the persistence of some weed species.

Effective weed management requires cooperation. In urban areas, weeds often spread from neighbouring land. Often stakeholders may have different knowledge or priorities, sometimes without understanding the broader impacts of their weed management practices which, can negatively impact weed management outcomes.

This Local Priority Weed Management Plan outlines how constituents within Mosman Council Local Government area can meet their general biosecurity duty and work together to reduce risks from widespread priority weeds and controlling local weed issues. Its vision is to support collaboration between government and the community to protect the environment, economy and local area from weed impacts. The goals and outcomes of this plan align with the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023–2027.

## Weed Risk Assessment and Prioritisation in NSW

Weeds in NSW are managed under the Biosecurity Act 2015 based on the risk they pose to the environment, community and economy. Weeds that pose the greatest risk and can still be effectively controlled are identified as priority weeds. These priority weeds receive the highest management and compliance focus.

A risk-based approach ensures weed management is:

- reasonably practicable
- proportional to the level of risk
- flexible and non-prescriptive

This idea follows the principle that early detection and control is the most efficient and cost-effective way to prevent long-term weed impacts.

The weed invasion curve shown below in (Figure 1) shows that the effort and resources needed to control a weed increase as it becomes more widespread.

NSW uses the Weed Risk Management system, a transparent and nationally accepted tool, to prioritise species. It assesses:

1. Weed risk (invasiveness, impacts, potential distribution)
2. Feasibility of coordinated control (control cost, persistence, current distribution)

Weeds scoring highly in both areas are prioritised at the relevant scale as shown in the diagram below. More information is available on the NSW Department of Primary Industries website.

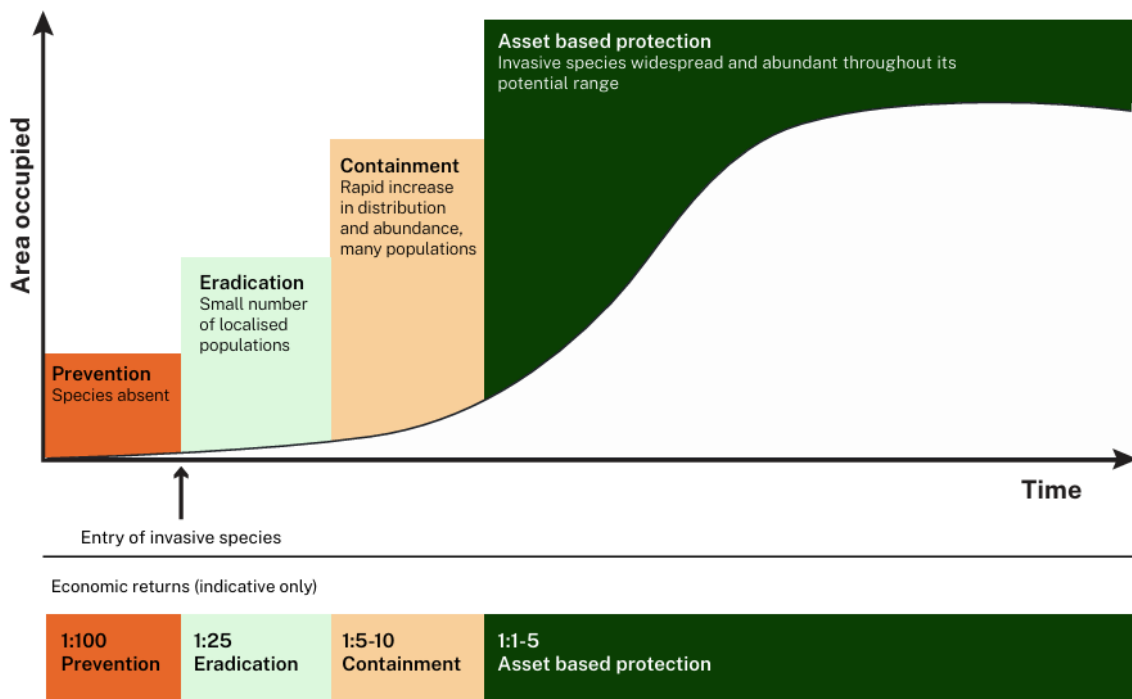


Figure 1 General weed invasion curve taken from Greater Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027.

## **Greater Sydney Regional Weeds Committee**

The Greater Sydney Regional Weeds Committee (GSRWC) is a statutory committee made up of Local Control Authorities, public and private landholders, industry representatives and community members. The committee provides strategic planning and co-ordination of weed management activities across Greater Sydney and is responsible for the development of the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Management Plan (GSRWMP).

## **Sydney Weeds Network**

The Sydney Weeds Network (formerly Sydney Weeds Committee) and its preceding subregional weed committees have provided a forum for cooperation between local councils and state agencies and have resulted in a number of successful collaborative projects and ongoing weed management. Significant efforts by the committee continue to be directed towards the eradication of new and emerging species and containment of other priority weeds. Mosman Council is a member of the coastal subnetwork committee within the Greater Sydney Region. Member organisations belonging to the coastal subnetwork committee include Bayside Council, Central Coast Council, City of Sydney, North Sydney Council, Northern Beaches Council, Randwick Council, Sutherland Shire Council, Waverley Council, Willoughby City Council and Woollahra Council.

## **Mosman Council – Local Priority Weed Management Context**

Mosman contains approximately 143 hectares of Bushland of which Mosman Council manages 39 hectares. Mosman is a small but environmentally significant urban peninsula on Sydney Harbour bordered by North Sydney Council to the north and Northern Beaches Council to the south. Mosman's natural areas support high biodiversity, including over 499 indigenous plant species and more than 60 native animal species. Most of the bushland in Mosman is classified as Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest (SSGR 10ag); however, small remnants of Coastal Sandstone Heath (CSH 21ag) still exist in the area.

These ecological values make weed management a high priority, particularly in areas where threatened species and communities are most vulnerable—for example, creek lines, moist gullies and bushland edges that are prone to disturbance and weed invasion. Protecting Mosman's remnant bushland and biodiversity is a core goal of Council's weed and bushland management programs.

Mosman Council acts as the Local Control Authority for weeds, enacting the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015. Weeds in Mosman are managed relative to their priority risk rating and level of establishment throughout the Council area. Council undertakes active weed control through operational contracts and bushcare volunteers. A list of Local Priority weeds can be found in Appendix 1.



Figure 2. Map of Mosman Council Local Government Area

# Key Stakeholders for Weed Management in Mosman

Effective weed management within Mosman involves collaboration between a range of stakeholders, including:

## Government Agencies

- Department of Defence – HMAS Penguin
- NSW Department of Primary Industries
- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Sydney Harbour Federation Trust – managers of significant bushland areas including Middle Head and Georges Heights
- Sydney Water
- Transport for NSW

## Landowners

- Private landowners and occupiers, particularly those adjoining Council bushland.

## Community and Non-Government Groups

- Mosman Bushcare volunteers, who support bush regeneration across Council-managed sites.
- Community Groups.
- Bush regeneration, horticultural and landscape contractors and environmental consultants working under Council's bushland programs.

## Purpose of this Plan

The purpose of this plan is to align the direction, actions and resource allocation of all stakeholders concerned with local priority weed management and their obligations under the Biosecurity Act 2015 to control widespread weeds across Mosman local government area.

**Goal One** – Weed biosecurity is a shared responsibility that supports a community approach to local weed management.

**Goal Two** - Local weed biosecurity that protects Mosman and prevents new weeds from establishing within the local area.

**Goal Three** - Enhance the region's capacity to support a collaborative tenure-neutral approach to improve effective weed control.

**Goal Four** – Enhance the capacity and biosecurity weed knowledge of Council staff and community members to support coordinated, informed and proactive weed management across the region.

Biosecurity is essential to protecting the community, environment and economy from the impacts of weeds. This plan supports the *Biosecurity Act 2015* by outlining community expectations and promoting coordinated local weed management.

Weed biosecurity is a shared responsibility. This plan helps land managers understand and meet their obligations under the Act by:

- increasing stakeholder knowledge of local priority weeds.
- educating the community about weed impacts, identification and control.
- strengthening collaboration between stakeholders and council.
- prioritising local priority weeds.
- responding effectively to new weed incursions.

## Weed Priority

**State Priority Weeds** – State priority weeds pose a high biosecurity risk to the entire state. Mandatory measures for their management are identified in the Biosecurity Act 2015 and Biosecurity Regulation 2017. A list of state priority weeds can be viewed at the link below:

Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027, [Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027](#), Appendix 1.1, Page 34.

**Regional Priority Weeds** - Regional priority weeds pose a high biosecurity risk to a particular part of NSW. These are identified through the development of regional strategic weed management plans. Regional priority weed species for Greater Sydney are listed in Appendix 1.2 of the GRSWMP. See the link below for the full list:

Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027, [Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027](#), Appendix 1.2, page 46.

**Local Priority Weeds** - Local priority weeds may pose a biosecurity risk in some situations and have been prioritised for management by Mosman Council. The local priority weeds for Mosman are identified in Appendix 1 of this document.

## Regulatory Functions

Mosman Council, as a local control authority, has the following functions under the Biosecurity Act 2015;

- the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds.
- to develop, implement, co-ordinate and review weed control programs.
- to inspect land in connection with its weed control functions.
- to keep records about the exercise of the local control authority's functions under this Act.
- to report to the Secretary about the exercise of the local control authority's functions under this Act.
- State and regional priority weeds that are high risk carry specific legal requirements and will be treated as a priority by Council. Local priority weeds will be treated as a lower priority.

## Priority weed Inspection process

Mosman Council will use State, Regional and Local Priority Weed Management Plans to guide inspections, surveillance and control efforts of weeds. The inspection process is shown Figure 3 below. Council will identify areas with high biodiversity value and ecological connectivity for resource allocation. Council’s management priority is not to enforce the Biosecurity Act 2015 for the control of widespread low risk weeds or weeds not listed in the state or regional high priority weed category (GRSWMP 2022). If a new high priority weed is suspected of being found, the new weed incursion procedure outlined in the Greater Sydney Region New Incursion Plan will be followed or as directed by State Government.

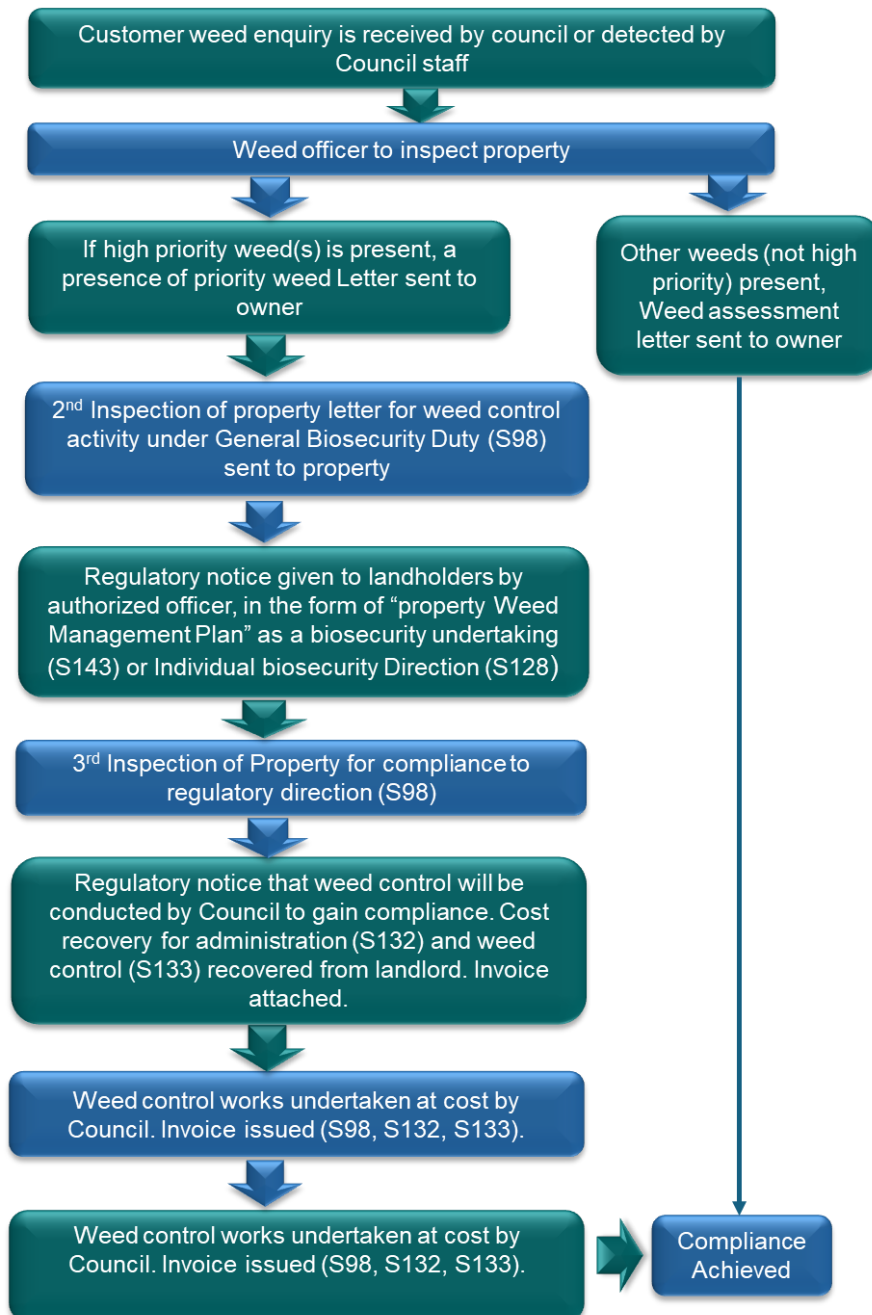


Figure 3. Mosman Council weeds surveillance and Inspection process

## References

- *Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027*, [Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027](#)
- *Local Priority Weed Management Plan, City of Canada Bay*, [https://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-09/Local%20Priority%20Weed%20Management%20Plan%202025\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-09/Local%20Priority%20Weed%20Management%20Plan%202025_FINAL.pdf)
- *Northern Beaches Council Local Priority Weed Management Plan*, <https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/weeds/weed-management>
- *Weeds and the Biosecurity Act- A handbook for local councils and councillors in NSW- NSW Department of Primary Industries*, [Weeds and the Biosecurity Act - A handbook for local councils and councillors in NSW](#)

## Glossary

**Asset:** Land or infrastructure with environmental, economic or social value. For example, National Park, bushland reserve, threatened species habitat, agricultural land, drinking water catchment, sporting field, urban tree canopy and public park.

**Biodiversity:** The variety of all life forms: the different species of plants, animals, fungi, bacteria and other micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems (the variety of habitats, biotic communities and ecological processes) of which they form a part.

**Biosecurity:** Protecting the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds.

**Collaboration:** Working together to develop an understanding of all issues and interests to work out alternatives and identify preferred solutions for joint decision making.

**Containment:** Preventing the spread of weed species beyond a predefined area and reducing the impact where it occurs.

**Customer:** Any land manager within the state or region, irrespective of whether they are private or public land managers, ratepayers or non-ratepayers. Eradication: To permanently remove a weed species and its propagules from an area.

**General Biosecurity Duty:** Under the Biosecurity Act 2015 a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) applies to all weed species that present a biosecurity risk. For weeds, the GBD means that any person dealing with plant matter, who knows or ought reasonably to know the biosecurity risk posed by that dealing, must take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable). 'Dealing' has a broad definition in the act. Plant matter includes plants, parts of plants and seeds.

**Habitat:** A place suitable for survival and/or reproduction of a particular plant or animal.

**Landscape:** Any section of land or coast and its natural features, including rivers and other water bodies. Represents the overlay of the variety and arrangement of physical landforms (e.g. rivers, escarpment, rocky reefs), communities of people (e.g. Aboriginal, rural) and land uses (e.g. urban, conservation, agricultural).

**Prevention:** To prevent a weed species arriving and establishing in an area.

**Stakeholder:** Organisations that collaborate and partner with Local Land Services directly to support customer service delivery.

**Weed:** Plants (foreign to the region) that are unwanted in a given situation and which usually have detectable negative economic, environmental or social impacts.

## Appendix 1 – Mosman Council Local Priority Weeds

### Strategic response in the region:

- On public land weeds will be strategically controlled and reduced according to available resources.
- Council highly recommends treating the local priority weeds on your property.

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Asthma weed	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Thunbergia alata</i>
Camphor Laurel	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>
Balloon Vine	<i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i>
Century Plant	<i>Agave americana</i>
Coastal Morning Glory	<i>Ipomea cairica</i>
Coral Tree	<i>Erythrina x sykesii</i>
Corky passionfruit	<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>
Crofton Weed	<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>
Cockspur Coral Tree	<i>Erythrina crista-galli</i>
Fishbone Fern	<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>
Formosa Lily	<i>Lilium formosanum</i>
Fountain grass	<i>Pennisetum spp.</i>
Ground Asparagus	<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Persicaria capitata</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Large Leaf and Small Leaf Privet	<i>Ligustrum sp</i>
Madeira Vine	<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>
Mickey Mouse Plant	<i>Ochna serrulata</i>
Mistflower	<i>Ageratina riparia</i>
Morning Glory	<i>Ipomea Indica</i>
Moth Vine	<i>Araujia sericifera</i>
Mother-Of-millions	<i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i>
Paddy's Lucerne	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>
Passionfruit	<i>Passiflora edulis</i>
Polygala	<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia sp.</i>
Purple Top	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>
Ribbon Plant	<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>
Senna/Cassia	<i>Senna Pendula</i>
Spanish Moss	<i>Tillandsia usneoides</i>
Turkey Rhubarb	<i>Rumex sagittatus</i>
Ludwigia	<i>Ludwigia spp</i>
Rhus Tree	<i>Toxicodendron succadeneum</i>